

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Extramarital affairs have become so common in modern society. Extramarital affair can occur in all circles in society. No matter from which someone comes from, no matter what their position is, no matter where they live and interact. Some seek sex outside marriage because they think they are not getting enough within marriage. As for extramarital affair, it also happens to those who think that their married life is too boring, their partner is not attractive anymore and with the reason that there are many incompatibilities each other but don't want or cannot end the marriage in front of the court. So, they are looking for someone to lean on, take a walk, discuss the issues, look for a new spirit to continue life, have fun or even just friends telling stories when they are heading to the office.

Extramarital affair is a natural reaction that occurs when someone feels a match and don't mind sharing be bed. Some of them also consider that extramarital affair is a short break from their lives. Instead for a moment, this will actually be very influential in their marriage life. They continue until it is not exposed and if they dare and totally committed each other then play plan for divorce and try to settle with ex or extramarital person for rest of life. Society and people have accepted this and that is the reason more and more divorce are taking place even after a very long period of marriage.

Danny Boice (2018) from article entitled "Infidelity Statistics 2018: Why, When, and How People Stray" has collected the data survey about infidelity, by involving 200 respondents in Washington, D.C. The result shows that 55% of male respondents cheated on their wife with five or more women while 50% of the female respondents admitted to cheating with one male, 32% of the men respondents met the person they cheated with online dating service or social media, 22% of the women respondents met the person they cheated with in

a bar or party, 23% of the men respondents admitted that the leading cause of the extramarital affair was due to a lack of sexual satisfaction, and 28% of the women respondents admitted that the cause of the extramarital affairs was due to a lack of emotional satisfaction. Almost 200 respondents with the majority of the respondents coming from those in 25-54 age range (77% woman, and 68% men). Of the female participants, 20% participants were still married and 17% participants were now divorced, while 38% of the male participants were still married and 20% were divorced. The 21% of the female respondents and 36% of the male participants admitted that they were commit infidelity while married. In the end, 40% of the men said that their marriages ended following the infidelity, while 19% of women said that their marriages ended in divorce. Each respondent knows that their partner has committed an extramarital affair in different ways, 39% of the women and 68% of the men who committed extramarital affair said that their spouses didn't find out. For the respondents who were cheated on, half of both men and women found out through electronic evidence: emails, photos on the clouds and text messages. In conclusion, most marriages still continued after the extramarital affair, although 40% of women admit that they are not on good terms with their spouses, while 60% of men say that they are on good terms. It also means that men infidelity is higher than women, 60% of the men do extramarital affair although they are on good terms, while 40% of women do extramarital affair because they don't have a good relationship with their spouses.

Among extramarital affair cases that have received much public attention, among others are cases among celebrities, such as Hollywood celebrities, happened to the married couples Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver (Gina Serpe, 2011: E! News), among Indonesian celebrities, Ahmad Dhani and Maia Estianty (Abdi Tumanggor, 2018: Tribun-Medan). Extramarital affair cases not only happen among US and Indonesian celebrities but also Indian celebrities who happened to Boney Kapoor and Mona Kapoor (Ashima Talwar, 2018: Bollywood Shaadis), Akshay Kumar with most of the ladies of Bollywood (Parul Singh, 2018: Dailyhunt), Raj Babbar and Nadira Zaheer (Rohit Garoo, 2016: The Bridal Box).

Extramarital affair has become a concern for writers. One writer who has a sense of concern for extramarital affair is Elle Newmark. She is an award-winning writer which one of her novel got Nationally Bestselling Author of her novel entitled *The Chef's Apprentice* (2008). Most of her novels was inspired by her travels. She and her husband, have two grown children, five grandchildren and live in the hills north of San Diego. Sadly, she died in 2011 after her novel *The Sandalwood Tree* published and due to a long illness before she lived and worked in the hills north of San Diego.

One of the novels written by Elle Newmark which illustrates the phenomenal of extramarital affair is her novel entitled *The Sandalwood Tree*. The Sandalwood Tree novel published in 2011 and became an unforgettable tale of love and betrayal during the British Raj rule. Her novel brings to life two love stories, ninety years apart, set against the backdrop of war-torn India. Here is the synopsis of the novel:

Evie Mitchell with her son, Billy went to India to accompany her husband to continue his research in India. Her husband, Martin won the Fulbright Fellowship for his research to India to document the end of British Raj rule. This is their first time visit India and bungalow is their new home in India. They got culture shocked when moving to India. The atmosphere, the people, the social life, and the food were very different from their expectations.

A few days later, Evie found a packet of old letters behind a brick wall in her bungalow. Evie was very curious and started reading the letter one by one. The letter was so fragile that many writings are missing. Evie intends to read all the letters to cure her curiosity. The letters were written by a girl named Felicity, a Victorian girl who had lived in the same bungalow where Evie and her husband lived now. Evie went on to read the letter to find out what the secret was actually hidden and whether it had anything to do with the bungalow she lived in now.

The old letter is a letter written by two best friends who named Adela Winfield and Felicity Chadwick. Adela and Felicity are two best friends who have been friends since childhood. Felicity's mother is a career woman. Therefore,

Felicity only spends her time with Adela and her babysitter. Adela and Felicity grown up together, they are always together. Once, Felicity decided to move to India to enjoy Indian festivals to amuse herself from her run aground romance. In India, Felicity met an Indian colonel. Felicity loved him very much and wanted to marry him. However, he has been married and it is impossible for him to marry Felicity because his position as a colonel and polygamy was banned in India at the time, but it was allowed to do polyandry. Day after day continued, Felicity's love to him did not decrease at all, even more increases. Colonel had tried to deny Felicity but he couldn't and eventually he decided to leave India with Felicity.

According to the data on *Goodreads*, this novel got 3,84 ranking stars, 2,972 ratings and 488 reviews. One of the reader of this novel, Angela M rated 3 stars for this novel and has responded to this novel four years ago. She really liked this novel since this novel was beautiful and descriptive writing. Evie was successfully managed to bring her to feel the atmosphere of India, the people, the foods, the market, the flowers, the trees and also some of Indian words and phrases just by reading the first few sheets of her novel. She was very interested with Adela and Felicity's character who are independent, strong, and want to live freely like what they aspire to, in spite of the fact that the relationship between Felicity and Jonathan were not acceptable in society. This novel also contains so many topics to think about such as the political riot in India in 1947, the striking caste system, the destitution and the cultural differences. The ending of this novel was predictable, she didn't feel a connection between Evie, Adela and Felicity story live, though there were similarities in both stories regarding what happening in India at that time.

Helen, rated 5 stars and has responded to this novel seven years ago. She said that this novel didn't disappoint her at all. Elle Newmark gave the detail descriptions of India and it is an excellent way for those who want to learn about India's culture and history because she makes everything easy to understand. The transitions about the 1857 and 1947 periods are handled perfectly. She both enjoyed the storylines between Adela and Felicity equally and that makes this book special.

Sharon also rated 5 stars for this novel and responded seven years ago. She said that this novel was rich in details and history which can makes the reader turning pages one by one. This novel presents an amazing story, and is worth reading. The character in this novel well illustrated by Elle Newmark. This novel makes the reader very emotional when reading it and it would be great if the novel was made a film.

In contrast to Angela, Helen and Sharon, J only rated 1 star for this novel and responded five years ago. J said that this novel was so annoying since Mahatma Gandhi was depicted as a figure of skinny little man in a loincloth. J was curious about the reaction of native Indians when reading this novel. The story of Adela and Felicity is told through the old letters and diary written with italic fonts which is very annoying font to read.

Ally only rated the novel 2 stars and responded almost six years ago. She was disappointed in this novel. Although the characters in this novel were brilliant, but the execution was poor. Unfortunately, as the reader she was interested to the story of Adela and Felicity than Evie's observations and investigations.

Just like Ally, Genia Lukin also rated 2 stars for this novel and left her respond over five years ago. In her opinion, *The Sandalwood Tree* is not a very good book and its utter pretentiousness makes this book really bad. This book does not really describe the condition of Indian history at that time. This book is only made by the author for mere fiction. This book is not too touching the heart and will be very easy to forget. This book is only recommended for people who wanted to get rid of boredom from daily office routines and not recommended for anyone who wants to know and read all about India or family relationships.

This novel was published in March 13th 2012 by Emily Bestler Books. It consists of 360 pages that are divided into 63 chapters. This novel is available on *Simonandachuster.com* with list price \$22.99 and also available on *Amazon.com* with list price \$15.20 in format kindle, \$16.00 in paperback, \$27.32 in hardcover. About 112 Novels have been sold on *Amazon.com*. This novel is in English and has been translated into several languages, such as Serbian, Bosnian,

Russian and Norwegian language. This novel doesn't get an award. Only the author of this novel received the Nationally bestselling author of *The Chef's Apprentice*, her novel before this novel.

In my opinion, when viewed from the characters and characterization in this novel is very interesting because of the characterization of Felicity who at first just wanted to entertain herself and seek pleasure in India from runaway story with her boyfriend, Percy. Felicity fell in love with the Indian colonel and wanted to remain married to him even though he had married and eventually married secretly with him. Other figures in this novel are also interesting and beyond expectation, as Jonathan who unexpectedly was not interested in Felicity, eventually madly in love with her and decided to leave his wife, India and leave with Felicity.

The setting of this novel takes place in India in 1857 and also at the end of British Raj rule, 1947. So much tensions, partition war between Hindus and Muslims that also happened at that time. The selection of setting in India at the peak of Indian tension at that time by the author made the setting of this novel very interesting because it was very complicated and full of tension.

This novel uses a third person point of view. Narrator, the character illustrates by the author to tell the story in this novel is Evie Mitchell. In this novel, besides act as a housewife and as a mother of a son, she is also act as a detective in this story. She investigated and found out about the origin of the old letters written by a Victorian girl who at that time also occupied the bungalow where she and her husband lived while accompanying her husband in continuing his studies in India. She continued to search for the mystery of the old letter until she could found it. Point of view of this novel is not really interesting since there are two love stories in this novel. Love story between Evie and Martin and also Felicity and Jonathan. Evie as a detective who investigates the love story between Felicity and Jonathan, which makes the reader more curious about the love story between Felicity and Jonathan than Evie and Martin, even though the love story between Evie and Martin also has an important role in this novel, making an imbalance in the two love stories in this novel.

This novel uses a language that is simple, straightforward, and easier to understand. The author also illustrated India at that time in great detail, starting from the atmosphere of India which is so crowded and densely populated, many do not use footwear, some areas look so seedy, polluted air, until Indian food that uses lots of spices with a strong aroma. The author describes the atmosphere of India in such detail, making anyone who reads it feel the atmosphere of India, as if the reader is in India.

The most interesting things in this novel are extramarital affair cases involving characters from three countries, American, British and Indian with different professions, ranging from housewife to military man, different cultures and also partition war conflicts between Hindu and Islam at the end of British Raj government at that time. So, that is why the researcher wants to analyze the issue of “Extramarital Affair Reflected in novel *The Sandalwood Tree* by Elle Newmark by Using Sociological Approach”.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements of this research are:

1. What are the causes of an extramarital affair in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*?
2. How is an extra marital affair depicted in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*?
3. Why is an extramarital affair specifically addressed by Elle Newmark in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To identify the causes of an extramarital affair in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*.
2. To describe how is an extramarital affair depicted in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*.

3. To reveal the underlying reasons why is an extramarital affair specifically addressed by Elle Newmark in the novel *The Sandalwood Tree*.

D. Benefits of The study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study expects to contribute to be able to contribute in large scope of knowledge especially on literary devices to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta or other Universities related to the literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

The researcher hopes that this study can provide more information and a deeper understanding of *The Sandalwood Tree* novel which uses theory sociology of literature.

E. Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is presenting introduction, which consists of background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study and paper organization. Chapter II is literature review, it describes previous studies, novelty and underlying theory. Chapter III is research method, consists of type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data resource, method of collecting data and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is finding and discussion, Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.